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Agricultural Situation

G8, European Commission, UN, World Bank and IUCN Discuss Illegal Logging

2005

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Report Highlights:

The Environment and Development ministers of the G8 countries, with the European Commissioners responsible for the environment and development, the EU presidency and senior officials from the U.N. the World Bank and IUCN met in March 2005 to discuss actions to tackle illegal logging, and agreed on some measures for this.

This report outlines some of the measures.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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[E3]

The Environment and Development ministers of the G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, the U.K, the U.S. and Russia), with the European Commissioners responsible for the environment and development, the EU Presidency and senior officials from the United Nations, the World Bank and IUCN (The World Conservation Union), met in the U.K in March 2005 to discuss, among other things, actions to tackle illegal logging.

In the meeting several measures to tackle illegal logging were agreed. This report presents some of these agreements.

The meeting agreed:

? to tackle illegal logging as an important step towards the sustainable management of forests and sustainable development. To tackle the impacts that illegal logging, associated trade and corruption have on environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and deforestation and hence climate systems. Illegal logging also damages livelihoods in the poorest countries, causes loss of revenues to Governments, distorts markets and trade, and sustains conflicts.

? that tackling illegal logging requires action by both timber producing and consuming countries. The meeting committed itself to a range of different actions as set out below, with each country acting where it can contribute most effectively, and also to engage with other major timber consuming countries.

? to assist timber producing countries by increasing support to existing forest law enforcement and governance processes and extending this support to other regions, help build wider awareness, understanding and commitment to tackle illegal logging.

? to increase support to producer countries in their efforts to tackle illegal logging and associated trade by: combating corruption through enhanced transparency and access to information, particularly on the allocation of forest harvesting rights and revenues; strengthening capacity to enforce forest, wildlife and other relevant laws; engaging civil society and local communities in these actions; re-establishing law enforcement and administrative systems in post-conflict situations; and helping countries meet CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) obligations.

? to share technical knowledge, help develop tools and build the capacity to apply them to detect and prevent illegal logging and apprehend and prosecute offenders. This will include remote sensing, Geographical Information Systems and other systems to monitor forest activities and conditions.

? to take steps to halt the import and marketing of illegally logged timber in the countries present in the meeting, for example by giving appropriate powers to border control authorities through voluntary bilateral trade agreements or other arrangements, consistent with WTO rules

? to take action to control illegal logging and associated trade, including wildlife trafficking, through bilateral and regional arrangements related to trade, consistent with WTO rules.

? to encourage, adopt or extend public timber procurement policies that favor legal timber, where they can influence the private sector to use legally sourced timber.

? to work with and encourage the private sector in producer and consumer countries, including timber processors, exporters, importers and civil society organizations, to develop and promote legally sourced timber products. We will also work with the private sector to

help them adopt and implement voluntary codes of conduct, good business practices and improved market transparency.

? to work with civil society to inform consumers of the problems caused by illegal logging.

? to request our experts to meet in 2006, to review progress towards the commitments we have made, share lessons on actions to tackle illegal logging, and make their findings available.

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